Laying of three new Rail lines in North Orissa

3496. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway proposes to lay three new rail lines in North Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given clearance for conducting survey of these lines; and

(d) if so, the time frame within which these projects would be taken up to speed up development of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The surveys for new lines from Buramara to Chakulia, from Digha to Jaleswar and for extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi to Gorumahisani have been taken up under South Eastern Railway.

(d) No time frame can be fixed at this stage.

Trains from India to Pakistan and Bangladesh

3497. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways plans to run trains between India and Pakistan from January, 2006;

(b) whether Railways is also considering to run container traffic and passenger trains between India and Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, what are the main points of the agreement and to what extent it will be helpful for all the three countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Passenger and goods train services already exist between India and Pakistan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An agreement between the Government of India and Government of Pakistan to run Samjhouta Express & Goods Train between Attari (India)—Lahore (Pakistan) was reviewed and renewed in January, 2001. For introduction of passenger trains between India and Bangladesh, an agreement was entered in July 2001, but till date the sanction of Bangladesh Government has not been received. As regards containerized traffic between India and Bangladesh, no agreement has been reached between two countries.

Allocation of Outlay for Railway Safety

3498. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation for railway safety for the last three years and how much was spent for safety alone and how much was diverted for other purposes;

(b) the reasons for such diversion in violation of financial discipline;

(c) the vacancies available under safety category for the last three year and what is the percentage shortage of manpower in the category of drivers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial shortfall in training safety category of staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The total gross plan allocation made for planheads relating to safety works, in the last three years has been as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Grant	Revised Grant	Actual Expenditure
2002-03	5204.72	4920.84	4684.01
2003-04	5234.56	5325.25	5027.09
2004-05(Provisional)	5948.60	6775.34	6465.78